

Croatia

Human Papillomavirus and Related Cancers, Fact Sheet 2021 (2021-10-22)



I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



Croatia has a population of 1.85 millions women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 336 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 150 die from the disease.

Cervical cancer ranks as the 10th most frequent cancer among women in Croatia and the 3rd most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age. About 18.0% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 82.9% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs 16 or 18.

Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	15.8
Anal cancer	0.66	0.71
Vulva cancer	-	4.56
Vaginal cancer	-	0.89
Penile cancer	1.67	-
Oropharyngeal cancer	4.75	0.71
Oral cavity cancer	12.6	4.19
Laryngeal cancer	13.4	1.13

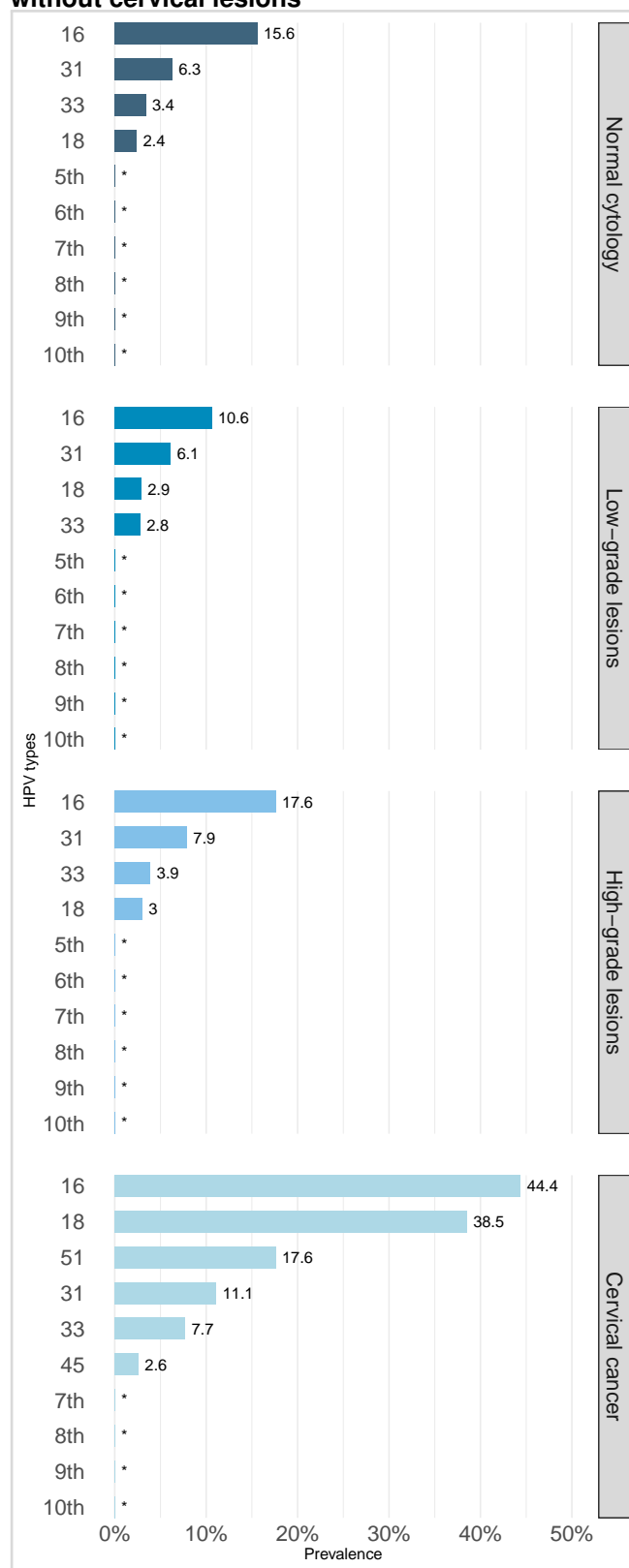
Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	336	150
Crude rate	15.8	7.06
Age-standardized rate	10.1	3.20
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	1.02	0.36
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	10th	14th
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	3rd	5th

Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection Croatia

	No. Tested	% (95% CI)
HPV 16/18 prevalence:		
Normal cytology	205	18.0 (13.4-23.9)
Low-grade cervical lesions	1271	13.5 (11.8-15.5)
High-grade cervical lesions	941	20.6 (18.2-23.3)
Cervical cancer	117	82.9 (75.1-88.7)

Figure 1. Comparison of the ten most frequent HPV oncogenic types in Croatia among women with and without cervical lesions



For data sources and further data on HPV infection in cancer sites other than the cervix, please refer to the specific country full report.

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II. Complementary data on cervical cancer prevention

Table 4. Factors contributing to cervical cancer (co-factors)

Smoking prevalence (%) [95% UI], women	29.3 [22.5-36.7]
Total fertility rate (live births per women)	1.4
Hormonal contraception use (%)	3.10
HIV prevalence (%) [95% UI] (15-49 years)	<0.1 [<0.1 -<0.1]

Table 5. Sexual behaviour

MEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	21.0
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	17.0
WOMEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	6.0
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	17.0

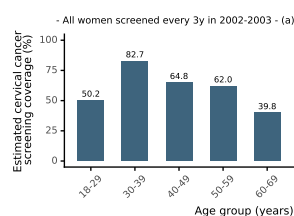
Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction in females

HPV vaccination programme	Introduced
Year of introduction	2016
HPV coverage – first dose (%) (estimation year 2019)	-
HPV coverage – last dose (%) (estimation year 2019)	-
HPV coverage – first dose (%) (estimation year 2020)	-
HPV coverage – last dose (%) (estimation year 2020)	-

Table 7. Cervical screening practices and recommendations

Cervical cancer screening coverage, % (age and screening interval, reference)	65.3% (All women aged 25-64 screened every 3y, WHS 2003 Croatia)
Screening ages (years)	25-64
Screening interval (years) or frequency of screens	3 years

Figure 2. Estimated coverage of cervical cancer screening in Croatia, by age and study



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